David Smith is shown above looking over gullies in old logging road.

The Problem

Shown above is just one of the many examples in Appomattox and throughout Virginia of the problems related to soil erosion in our forest lands. Soil erosion and sedimentation are forms of non-point pollution that can be minimized by careful planning of our forest operations. Public Law 92-50, The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, requires the control of non-point sources of water pollution from forest activities. This act will have a great impact on forest management and harvesting activities in Virginia and throughout the nation.

Logging operations and some silvicultural practices in forest management are contributing factors in soil erosion. By becoming aware of the major causes of forest soil erosion, and by taking proper corrective voluntary action it will be possible to meet the requirements of Public Law 92-500. Additional compulsary and restrictive Federal regulations may be enacted if we do not make the effort, on our own, to reduce the sources of pollution of our streams and waterways.

The removal of trees from the forest does not in itself cause soil erosion and pollution. It is the procedures used to harvest the timber that can cause the problems.

Some of the activities which can lead to woodland erosion and non-point pollution are: 1, improperly constructed hauling roads or fire lines, where no provisions have been made to drain the surface water for the road; 2, skidding or hauling timber across streams without the use of bridges, culverts, or carefully selected fords; 3, leaving slash or debris in drainage ditches or streams; 4, failure to consider soil erodibility in laying out log roads; 5, the removal of topsoil in the use of bulldozing for land clearing operations; 6, the use of heavy equipment on excessive slopes or on fragile soils; and 7, the bulldozing of debris into natural drainage.

Many of the problems have been caused by poor judgement or the lack of knowledge on the proper procedures to use. Close cooperation between the forest landowners, the forest industries, and the various governmental service agencies such as the Virginia Division of Forestry and the Soil Conservation Service can help reduce the amount of forest related pollution. Forest related activities play a major role in the economy of Appomattox as well as the rest of Virginia. By working together on a voluntary basis, we can meet the requirements on the law at minimum cost. Federal regulations can force us to meet the pollution requirements but the cost can easily become prohibitive, thus strangling our forest industries and greatly increasing the cost of forest products as well as reducing the amount that can be paid for the raw materials, (trees).

Think about the problem for a while...the possible answer will be printed in a future edition of this newspaper.

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THEN and NOW!

By Frances H. Paulette

Mrs. Elizabeth Marsh, holding one of her many quilts. "Aunt Betsy" is indeed "Queen of Quilting for Appomattox County."

Miss Marguerite Gilliam is shown holding a quilt that is 119 years old - - - made in 1958 by her grandmother, Mrs. John Gilliam. The pattern is Vase of Flowers. The brown fabric used to line the quilt was dyed with a solution made from walnut hulls and boiling water.

"The Quilting Bee"

The diminutive lady in the blue gingham dress slowly descended the stairway of the big, rambling farmhouse and surveyed the disarray on the lower floor. The chairs, still grouped around the quilting frames as they had been left after yesterday's quilting party hid from view her sister who was bustly working. Upon entering the room, Abigail saw her sister and couldn't believe her eyes. In utter dismay she watched as Jessica deftly pulled stitch after stitch from the beautifully patterned quilt. "Jessica!" she exclaimed in complete exasperation, "What on earth are you doing? Without even pausing to look up, her nimble fingers quickly pulling out stitch after stitch, she calmly answered her sister. "Now, Abigail, I was hoping to get this done before you got downstairs. I knew just how upset you would be if you found out what I was doing." Her sister still didn't understand - Jessica explained further.

"Abigail, I know you treasure every single stitch that our friends so lovelingly put in this quilt, just as much as I do. You know too, sister dear, you have never been quite as "persnickety" as I am about having everything done exactly right, no offense; and whether you like to admit it or not, your eyesight isn't quite what it used to be." As she continued to remove stiches she explained still further, "I knew good and well when you invited that Samantha, poor soul, that this would have to be done - - - she can't quilt worth a tool! I kind of thought of asking her to work with the kitchen crew, but that would have been worse - - - she can't cook either! Poor, dear Samantha!

Abigail? Jessica? Samantha? Purely fictional characters from my imagination. The situation? Very, very real! According to several ladies with whom I talked about quilting bees, it could have, and did happen on more than one occasion.

The quilting bee, quite a social event in days gone by (and still a quite popular in some sections of the country) was a gathering of friends and relatives from all around the neighborhood. It didn't matter if you couldn't sew fine stiches - - - there was cooking to be done. It took quite a bit of good food to feed the members of the bee and their families. You see, the bee was often coupled with a barn-raising, wood-chopping or some other task the men needed to complete, and hard work meant hearty appetites. The children usually came along if they weren't old enough for school or if school was not in session at that time. Occasionally, there was a Samantha - - - one who couldn't sew or cook. So, in order to avoid hurt feelings she went ahead and quilted with the others and afterwards, when the guests had departed, the lady of the house would pull out the uneven stitches and redo the work to her complete satisfaction.

I had the pleasure of visiting with Mrs. Elizabeth Marsh (T.G.) of the Oakville Community one afternoon last week. She was busily shelling peas with the help of two friends, Mrs. Lorene Lucado and Mrs. Geneva Childers, and all three ladies were quite knowledgable about quilting.

"Aunt Betsy", as Mrs. Marsh is affectionately known to many of her friends, is most certainly in my opinion, "Queen of Quilting" for Appomattox County. Quilting for all of her adult life, she has quilted 162 quilts since 1970; she quilted 26 in 1976. She told me that it takes about two days to do a simple quilt and longer for the more elaborate patterns. Then it requires two hours of tedious handwork to get the quilt hemmed. So, you can see that a lot of hard work and most of all patience is required to complete a beautiful quilt. It is no wonder that quilts are highly prized and handed down from generation to generation.

Mrs. Marsh might get a bit more quilting done if she weren't such a busy woman. At age 76, "Aunt Betsy" does all of her housework, all the gardening except for the plowing, is active in church, extension homemakers work, work with senior citizens, and she loves to visit. Though she lives alone, she is never lonely - - - she doesn't have time for that!

Mrs. Marsh told of an amusing incident that happened once at a quilting. One of the ladies was quilting with an "open-end thimble" and accidently dropped it on the floor underneath the quilting frame. A little boy was playing on the floor at his mother's feet. He picked up the thimble and swallowed it! Had it not been for the open end in the thimble allowing air to pass through the little tykes might not have survived.

It was not unusual for a mother to rap sharply on the head of her youngster as he got a bit rowdy while playing underneath the quilt - - - that thimble rap was a bit severe, too. Often a quilt is made from bits and pieces left over from clothing that had been made for the family. It might be that Mom's Sunday best dress, Aunt Bessie's petticoat, Father's best shirt and little sister's Christing dress might all be part of the family quilt.

In the days of THEN a girl didn't think of getting married without several warm quilts; Mrs. Marsh had 6 quilts when she began her married life.

Quilts are more than something to keep us warm, and I'm sure, with the severe cold of last winter their popularity is increasing. A quilt is a work of love, a masterpiece of loving patience, something to be treasured.

While our English and Dutch ancestors brought quilt making to this country, the French women introduced appliqued ornaments in quilts in the form of leaves, flowers and vines in colors of satin and velvet. Quilts were often used not only as covering for the beds but also for draperies to keep out the cold.

With patterns many and varied, a potential quilter has much from which to choose. The Bible has provided many names for quilt patterns and designs, "Star of Bethelem", "Rob Peter to Pay Paul", "Jacob's Ladder" and "Crown of Thorns", and many others.

"Where There's No Sunshine"

By Cindy Walsh

The sun was out, and it hung in the sky like a ball of fire scorching the rain clouds. It had rained two days before which made the grass sparkle. Spring had pushed winter aside and taken control.

Inside her room, Diane Webster didn't even know the sun existed today. Her shades were pulled down and she didn't have any lights on. As much as she liked the sunshine today just wasn't her day. As a matter of fact, none of her days were the best anymore.

Her room was a very small one and her bed filled most of the area. There were no posters and life was scarce. It was painted a dull green and the floors were neither covered nor clean.

Diane, being a rather shy girl, never really made too many friends. Being left out of a lot of things made her curious of activities taken up by the other teenagers. No, not sports or music. The usual thing, drugs! You see, Diane wanted to mix with the crowd like any other teenager of today and to do so she had to get into drugs. Sure there were other kinds of people, but she was out to hurt her parents, also.

Her mother, a 35-year old out-going woman, never really paid any attention to Diane. As a child, Diane would always be pushed out of a social party or the usual garden club meetings by her mother. She never even beat Diane, so Diane tried to get into trouble. She found out though, that it didn't work. Diane never really knew the definition of a mother. She thought of her mother as merely another face to look at.

Mr. Webster, a man in his early forties, was always at his office or down at the bar, guzzling a beer until he was so drunk it took him a day and a half to get sober. Her father wasn't really an alcoholic, but whenever he had a problem he thought drinking would solve it. It embarrased her mother because she'd have to pick him up and it just didn't do much for her social status outlook. Again, her social life was a step ahead.

Diane tried to get off drugs, but as much as she tried, it got even harder. She knew she was an addict and so far as she knew her mother probably knew it too. She'd leave the house to go to school and end up at some guy's apartment bombed. She'd get home the next morning to find her father gone to work and her mother sleeping peacefully in the master bedroom without a care in the world.

This procedure went on for three years and while Diane sat in her room, she thought about it all. Trying to balance things out isn't easy when your troubles weigh more than your happiness. So what do you do when you're hooked on drugs, nobody loves you, and you can see the fires of hell in every day. Do you sit back and let it slap you in the face or end it the quick way?

Diane had been walking for about an hour when she finally arrived in front of the house. Everyone was gone and all was silent. She sat, soaking up the sun, letting it enter her body. She could feel the warmth given off from the beams.

When she finally decided she had taken enough from the sun, she went inside and journeyed throughout the house. She walked and walked until finally she reached the first stop, the medicine cabinet. There they are, in the back. Yeah, the ones labled Codeine! Next stop, the alley, the place of the dying. What other surroundings could be more perfect for death?

How many is that? About twenty, you say? That should do the trick. Now it'll take only seconds. Before you take that eternal rest, don't forget to leave that note you wrote. Your mother and father probably won't notice you first, so don't address it to them. Well, this is it "The Last Stop". Do you see the gates opening for you? It's what you always thought it would be. Pure hell. Just like the Hell at home.

Diane was found that night and as was expected it wasn't by her father or mother. It was just a loyal citizen. The note was also found and it said what Diane Webster never thought she would ever have to say. It was written in the form of a poem. It read:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Please do not read this if you do not care!
Just leave me in peace,
If you care
Read this carefully and you will understand.

You see, I was a narc.
You know, a dope fiend, a drug abuser.
I didn't eat much and mainly I drank wine,
And all I had to do was get high.

Once you start, you're stuck.
Stuff like hash, pot and acid was what I lived on.
I was a victim of death
I knew my life was gone.

I used to be a quiet type of person.
Then I was introduced to drugs,
By my so-called friends.
The ones I thought I loved.

I loved my mother and father
But they didn't love me,
They didn't care what I did.
Or where I would be.

Mom told me I was a mistake.
That I shouldn't be here today,
And now I have corrected that mistake.

Please tell her for me, she got her way.

I've never been a religious person,
And I never prayed too well,
But I just wanted you to do one thing for me
Before I descend into Hell.

Please bow your head and pray for me.
Tell that great man upstairs,
That I never wanted it to be this way.
I just wanted someone who cares.

Well, I'm not going to take anymore of your time.
Just remember this letter only concerns us,
And I thank you for caring.

Signed,

Diane Webster died at the age of 16. She died for the teenagers with problems such as hers. Her goal was to make all the unwanting parents to look at their dying children and reach their hand out to them.

Rev. Emmert To Speak To Episcopal Women

The Reverend John Emmert, Episcopal Chaplain at Longwood and Hampden-Sydney Colleges, will be the guest speaker at the June 14 meeting of St. Anne's Episcopal Churchwomen. The meeting will begin with a covered-dish supper at 6:30 p.m., in the Church's Parish Hall.

The Reverend Mr. Emmert is a native of Indiana. He attended the University of Madrid in Spain, the University of Miami in Ohio, and earned the Master of Divinity Degree from Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria.

Mr. Emmert was ordained to the Priesthood by the Right Reverend David S. Rose, Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia. Prior to his present appointment, he served as Chaplain at William and Mary and more recently as Vicar of Epiphany Church in Valdez, Alaska.

Mr. Emmert and his wife, the former Kathryn E. Klontz, have two children, and the family resides in Farmville.

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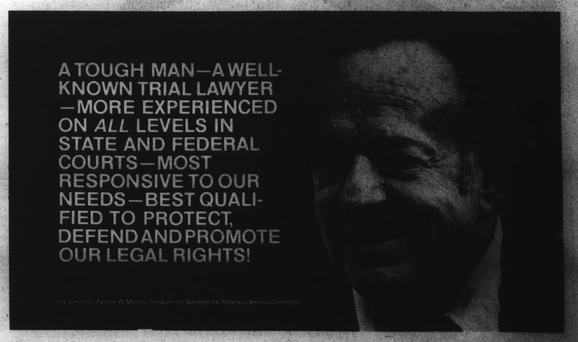

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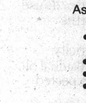

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